(b) The issue of comprehensive Environment Impact Assessment study in Bellary-Hospet region was taken up with the Ministry of Mines. They have informed that their Ministry as well as the Ministry of Steel are quite concerned about the need to enforce scientific mining in this region and it has been decided that a joint team of the Directorate of Mines and Geology, Government of Karnataka and Indian Bureau of Mines would be carrying out a detailed study of the Bellary-Hospet area and would suggest policy guidelines for renewal or grant of new mining leases in the area for further consideration by the Government.

In view of the above, the Karnataka Government has accordingly been informed on 1-5-2001, that separate study is not required.

Fishing Villages Affected due to Oil Leakage Off Bombay Harbour

4337. SHRI NANA DESHMUKH: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that an oil leak from the ONGC, LPG and crude oil terminal off Bombay harbour has affected fishing villages around the coast of Konkan;

(b) if so, the details of loss caused by it; and

(c) what steps have been taken to avoid such a tragedy in future?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) to (c) An incident of minor spillage of crude oil has been reported at ONGC's Uran Plant on 1st May, 2001. No adverse effect on the fishing villages or marine life has been noticed. To prevent recurrence of such leakage, measures such as creation of additional bund in the crude oil tank area and provision of additional oil traps in the storm water channels of ONGC have been taken up.

Permisson for Storage of Hazardous Materials

†4338. SHRI GOPALSINH G. SOLANKI : Will the MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Delhi High Court has strongly criticised Government for giving permission for storage and construction related activities of hazardous materials, by amending Coastal Regulation Zone (CRZ), 1991;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(c) whether Government have given approval to set up hazardous units in Kutch regioin of Gujarat under Coastal Regulatory Zone. 1991; and

(d) if so, the number and the details of such units approved to be set up so far?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) and (b) No. Sir.

(c) and (d) Six projects in Gujarat relating to storage, handling and transfer of petroleum products have been accorded environmental clearence under the provisions of the amended Coastal Regulation Zone Notification.

Lake Cleaning at Hill Stations

4339. DR. ALLADI P. RAJKUMAR: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state: ,

(a) whether Government 'have decided to clean up the lakes at Ooty and Kodaikanal hill stations in Tamil Nadu, Powai in Maharashtra and Nainital in Uttaranchal;

(b) if so, the amount sanctioned for this work; and

(c) by when the work on this project is likely to commence and be completed?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R.BAALU): (a) to (c) Government have approved the projects for conservation of Ooty and Kodaikanal lakes in Tamil Nadu and Powai in Maharashtra at an estimated cost of Rs. 14.90 crore. Out of this, an amount of Rs. 4 crore has been released for Powai and Rs. 1 crore for Ooty lakes. The projects of Powai and Ooty lakes will take 18 months for completion whereas the project of Kodaikanal Lake will take three years. Proposal for conservation of Nainital Lake has not been approved.

Withholding the funds by World Wildlife Fund International

4340. DR. Y. LAKSHMI PRASAD : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state;

(a) whether it is a fact that World Wildlife Fund International for Tiger Conservation Programme in India, has withheld and frozen all its Tiger Conservation related funds to India;